

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

LUCAS CRANOR

Plaintiff(s),

v.

ILLUMINATE EDUCATION, INC.

Defendant(s).

CASE NO:  
8:22-cv-01404-JVS-JDE

INITIAL ORDER FOLLOWING  
FILING OF COMPLAINT  
ASSIGNED TO JUDGE SELNA

**Important Notice: The Court posts tentative law and motions rulings**

**to the internet. Please see Section P, below**

COUNSEL FOR PLAINTIFF SHALL SERVE THIS ORDER ON ALL DEFENDANTS AND/OR THEIR COUNSEL ALONG WITH THE SUMMONS AND COMPLAINT, OR IF THAT IS NOT PRACTICABLE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE THEREAFTER. IF THIS CASE WAS ASSIGNED TO THIS COURT AFTER BEING REMOVED FROM STATE COURT, THE DEFENDANT WHO REMOVED THE CASE SHALL SERVE THIS ORDER ON ALL OTHER PARTIES.

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1           This case has been assigned to the calendar of Judge James V. Selna.  
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The intent of this Order is to ensure that this case will proceed so as "to secure [a] just, speedy and inexpensive determination." (Fed.R.Civ. P., Rule 1.)

#### A. **THE COURT'S ORDERS**

Copies of Judge Selna's orders that may have specific application to this case are available on the Central District of California website. See ¶ N.  
Those orders include the following:

- (1) Order Setting Rule 26(f) Scheduling Conference
- (2) Order re Civil Jury Trials
- (3) Order re Civil Court Trials
- (3) Order re RICO Case Statement

#### B. **SERVICE OF PLEADINGS**

Although Fed.R.Civ.P., Rule 4(m) does not require the summons and complaint to be served for as much as 90 days, the Court expects that the initial pleadings will be served much sooner than that, and will require plaintiff to show cause before then if it appears that there is undue delay.

#### C. **ASSIGNMENT TO A MAGISTRATE JUDGE**

Under 28 U.S.C. § 636, the parties may consent to have a Magistrate Judge preside over all proceedings, including trial. The Magistrate Judges who accept those designations are identified on the Central District's website, which also contains the consent form. See ¶ N.

1           **D. EX PARTE PRACTICE**

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3           *Ex parte* applications are solely for extraordinary relief and should  
4           be used with discretion. See Mission Power Engineering Company v.  
5           Continental Casualty Co., 883 F. Supp. 488 (C. D. Cal. 1995). The Court will  
6           generally decide *ex parte* matters on the papers. Opposition to an *ex parte*  
7           application, if any, should be submitted within 24 hours.  
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9           **E. APPLICATIONS AND STIPULATIONS FOR EXTENSIONS  
10           OF TIME**

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12           No stipulations extending scheduling requirements or modifying  
13           applicable rules are effective until and unless the Court approves them. Both  
14           applications and stipulations must set forth:

- 15  
16           1. The existing due date or hearing date;  
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18           2. Specific, concrete reasons supporting good cause for granting  
19           the extension. In this regard, a statement that an extension "will promote  
20           settlement" is insufficient. The requesting party or parties must indicate the  
21           status of ongoing negotiations: Have written proposals been exchanged? Is  
22           counsel in the process of reviewing a draft settlement agreement? Has a mediator  
23           been selected?

- 24  
25           3. Whether there have been prior requests for extensions, and  
26           whether these were granted or denied by the Court.

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1           **F. TROs AND INJUNCTIONS**

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3           Parties seeking emergency or provisional relief shall comply with  
4 F.R.Civ.P., Rule 65 and Local Rule 65. The Court will not rule on any  
5 application for such relief for at least 24 hours after the party subject to the  
6 requested order has been served; such party may file opposing or responding  
7 papers in the interim.

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9           **G. CASES REMOVED FROM STATE COURT**

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11          All documents filed in state court, including documents appended to  
12 the complaint, answers and motions, must be refiled in this Court as a supplement  
13 to the Notice of Renewal, if not already included. See 28 U.S.C. § 1447(a),(b). If  
14 the defendant has not yet answered or moved, the answer or responsive pleading  
15 filed in this Court must comply with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and the  
16 Local Rules of the Central District. If before the case was removed a motion was  
17 pending in state court, it must be re-noticed in accordance with Local Rule 7.

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19          **H. STATUS OF FICTITIOUSLY NAMED DEFENDANTS**

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21          This Court intends to adhere to the following procedures where a matter  
22 is removed to this Court on diversity grounds with fictitiously named defendants.  
23 (See 28 U.S.C. §§ 1441(a) and 1447.)

24  
25          1. Plaintiff is normally expected to ascertain the identity of and  
26 serve any fictitiously named defendants within 120 days of the removal of the action  
27 to this Court.

28          ///

1           2. If plaintiff believes (by reason of the necessity for discovery or  
2 otherwise) that fictitiously named defendants cannot be fully identified within the  
3 120-day period, an *ex parte* application requesting permission to extend that period  
4 to effectuate service may be filed with this Court. Such application shall state the  
5 reasons therefor, and may be granted upon a showing of good cause. The *ex parte*  
6 application shall be served upon all appearing parties, and shall state that appearing  
7 parties may comment within seven (7) days of the filing of the *ex parte* application.  
8

9           3. If plaintiff desires to substitute a named defendant for one of the  
10 fictitiously named parties, plaintiff first shall seek to obtain consent from counsel  
11 for the previously-identified defendants (and counsel for the fictitiously named  
12 party, if that party has separate counsel). If consent is withheld or denied, plaintiff  
13 may apply *ex parte* requesting such amendment, with notice to all appearing  
14 parties. Each party shall have seven calendar days to respond. The *ex parte*  
15 application and any response should comment not only on the substitution of the  
16 named party for a fictitiously named defendant, but on the question of whether the  
17 matter should thereafter be remanded to the Superior Court if diversity of  
18 citizenship is destroyed by the addition of the new substituted party. *See U.S.C. §*  
19 1447(c), (d).

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21           **I. BANKRUPTCY APPEALS**

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23           Counsel shall comply with the ORDER RE PROCEDURE TO BE  
24 FOLLOWED IN APPEAL FROM BANKRUPTCY COURT issued at the time the  
25 appeal is filed in the District Court.

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1                   **J. MOTIONS UNDER FED.R.CIV.P. RULE 12**

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3                   Many motions to dismiss or to strike could be avoided if the parties  
4 confer in good faith (as they are required to do under L.R. 7-3), especially for  
5 perceived defects in a complaint, answer or counterclaim which could be corrected  
6 by amendment. See Chang v. Chen, 80 F.3d 1293, 1296 (9th Cir. 1996) (where a  
7 motion to dismiss is granted, a district court should provide leave to amend unless  
8 it is clear that the complaint could not be saved by any amendment). Moreover, a  
9 party has the right to amend his complaint "once as a matter of course at any time  
10 before a responsive pleading is served." Fed.R.Civ.P., Rule 15(a). A 12(b)(6)  
11 motion is not a responsive pleading and therefore plaintiff might have a right to  
12 amend. See Nolen v. Fitzharris, 450 F.2d 958, 958-59 (9th Cir. 1971); St.  
13 Michael's Convalescent Hospital v. California, 643 F.2d 1369, 1374 (9th Cir.  
14 1981). And even where a party has amended his Complaint once or a responsive  
15 pleading has been served, the Federal Rules provide that leave to amend should be  
16 "freely given when justice so requires." F.R.Civ.P., Rule 15(a). The Ninth Circuit  
17 requires that this policy favoring amendment be applied with "extreme liberality."  
18 Morongo Band of Mission Indians v. Rose, 893 F.2d 1074, 1079 (9th Cir. 1990).

19  
20                   These principles require that counsel for the plaintiff should carefully  
21 evaluate the defendant's contentions as to the deficiencies in the complaint, and  
22 that in many instances the moving party should agree to any amendment that would  
23 cure a curable defect.

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25                   The moving party shall attach a copy of the challenged pleading to the  
26 Memorandum of Points and Authorities in support of the motion.

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1           The foregoing provisions apply as well to motions to dismiss a  
2 counterclaim, answer or affirmative defense, which a plaintiff might contemplate  
3 bringing.

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5           **K. REQUIREMENTS FOR BRIEFS**

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7           In addition to the requirements in Local Rule 11, the Court requires  
8 the following for all briefs:

9

10           1. No footnote shall exceed 5 lines. The Court strongly discourages  
11 the use of extensive footnotes as a subterfuge to avoid page limitations in the Local  
12 Rules.

13

14           2. All footnotes shall be in the same type size as text. See Local Rule  
15 11-3.1.1.

16

17           3. Each case cited shall include a jump cite to the page or pages where  
18 the relevant authority appears (e.g., United States v. Doe, 500 U. S. 1, 14, 17  
19 (1997)).

20

21 Failure to follow these requirements may result in rejection of a brief for  
22 correction.

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24           **L. LEAD COUNSEL**

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26           Lead counsel shall appear on all dispositive motions, scheduling  
27 conferences, and settlement conferences. **The Court does not entertain special  
28 appearances; only counsel of record may appear.**

1           **M. COURTESY COPIES**

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3           A courtesy copy of all electronically filed pleadings shall be delivered  
4 to Judge Selna's courtesy copy drop on the tenth floor at the rear of the elevator  
5 lobby by noon the day following filing. **Failure to make timely delivery of the**  
6 **courtesy copies may result in a delay in hearing a motion or ordering the**  
7 **matter off calendar.**

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9           **N. ELECTRONIC COPIES**

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11          When the Court requires an electronic copy of a document (*e.g.*, with  
12 proposed jury instructions), a copy shall be submitted at time of filing in one of the  
13 following manners: providing a copy on a disk, CD, or thumb drive in a labeled  
14 envelope and lodged with the clerk; or by e-mailing a copy to the Courtroom  
15 Deputy (JVS\_Chambers@cacd.uscourts.gov). Regardless of media, the document  
16 should be formatted in WordPerfect9 or higher.

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18          **O. WEBSITE**

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20          Copies of this Order and other orders of this Court are available on the  
21 Central District of California's website, at "www.cacd.uscourts.gov" at Judge  
22 Selna's home page located under "Judge's Procedures and Schedules."

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24          **P. TENTATIVES–DAY OF HEARING AND WEB POSTING**

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26          The Court attempts to issue tentative rulings on each motion. Tentatives  
27 will be posted on the Court's website: www.cacd.uscourts.gov/. From the home  
28 page, click on "Judges' Procedures and Schedules" in the left column. From the

list click on "Hon. James V. Selna," which will take you to Judge Selna's page.  
Click on the red notice in the upper left: "Click here to view Tentative Rulings."  
Then click on the desired ruling which comes up in a .pdf file which can be read  
with an Adobe Acrobat reader. Judge Selna attempts to post tentatives by late  
Friday afternoon preceding the hearing date. Hard copies of tentatives will also  
be available from the clerk approximately 15 minutes before the hearing.

**Q. EMERGENCY AFTER-HOURS CONTACTS**

In the event that an after-hours emergency arises, the Court can be reached  
through United States Marshal's Command Center in Los Angeles (213-894-2485)  
or Santa Ana (714-338-4610).

The Court thanks counsel and the parties for their anticipated  
cooperation.

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**



DATED: August 1, 2022

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James V. Selna  
United States District Judge